

Remarks

The Office Action mailed October 2, 2006 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-5 and 7-31 are now pending in this application. Claims 1-5 and 7-31 stand rejected.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a), a one month extension of time is submitted herewith to extend the due date of the response to the Office Action dated October 2, 2006, for the above-identified patent application from January 2, 2007, through and including February 2, 2007. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.17(a)(1), authorization to charge a deposit account in the amount of \$120.00 to cover this extension of time request also is submitted herewith.

The rejection of Claims 1-5 and 7-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Koether et al. (U.S. Patent 5,875,430) in view of Andruzzi et al. (U.S. Patent 4,580,276) (hereinafter referred as "Andruzzi") is respectfully traversed.

Koether describes a plurality of kitchen base stations (150) that each have communication with at least one appliance (A) within a cell. Each kitchen base station (150) may interrogate a corresponding controller (140) of an appliance (A) within the cell or the controller may request to transmit diagnostic information relating to a plurality of operating conditions of the kitchen appliances within the cell, which diagnostic information may be immediately communicated to a control center (170) (Col. 4, lines 25-28, Col. 5, lines 60-65). Each kitchen base station also includes a microprocessor (167) that controls a plurality of activities of the base station and communication between an appliance and a corresponding kitchen base station (Col. 7, lines 54-57). Decisions are made by the microprocessor in accordance with data received from the control center (Col. 7, lines 57-59). The microprocessor includes a terminal keyboard and display unit (155) that allows a user to exchange information with the appliances as well as with the control center (Col. 7, lines 59-62).

Applicants respectfully note that Koether does not describe nor suggest a local area appliance network *interconnecting a plurality of appliances*. Rather, Koether describes a plurality of cells that each include at least one appliance (A) and a controller (140). Each appliance within the cell has communication with the corresponding controller (140). However, Koether does not describe or suggest a network wherein the appliances are interconnected. Rather, each individual appliance is connected only to its corresponding controller. Applicants submit that merely describing a network including appliances that are each connected to a controller does not describe or suggest a local area network *interconnecting a plurality of appliances*.

Andruzzi describes an amplitude-shift keying/frequency-shift keying (ASK/FSK) data encoding and transmission scheme (Col. 1, lines 53-60). The ASK/FSK scheme encodes for a logical one, or mark, one unique frequency, or tone, and similarly a logical zero, or space, is designated by the use of a second unique frequency, or tone, in both the transmitting and receiving of data (Col. 1, lines 53-60). Further, the ASK/FSK scheme includes receiving the unique logical-one frequency for a set, predetermined period of time which at most is assigned an equivalence of one-half the total digital bit period of the "1" (Col. 1, lines 64-67). In a like manner, the second, distinct logical-zero frequency, or tone, is held "on" for a period of time less than or equal to one-half the total digital bit period of the "0" (Col. 2, lines 3-6). Implementation of the ASK/FSK scheme is accomplished by a modem (Col. 2, lines 11-14). Notably, Andruzzi does not describe nor suggest a local area appliance network *interconnecting a plurality of appliances*.

Claim 1 recites a method of performing service diagnostics on appliances, wherein the method comprises "connecting a diagnostic interface to a local area appliance network interconnecting a plurality of appliances, wherein the diagnostic interface includes a display . . . accessing at least one appliance in the local area appliance network . . . performing a service diagnosis of the at least one appliance through the diagnostic interface over the local area appliance network using service functions in the at least one appliance . . . implementing the diagnostic interface within a single device including the display, a processing circuitry generating service commands to perform the service diagnosis, and a power line carrier

modem configured to modulate data to communicate the data over an alternating current (AC) power line . . . servicing, by the diagnostic interface, the at least one appliance via the power line carrier modem, said servicing comprising at least one of adjusting a characteristic of the at least one appliance and displaying to a technician the service diagnosis.”

Neither Koether nor Andruzzi, considered alone or in combination, describe nor suggest a method of performing service diagnostics on appliances, as is recited in Claim 1. Specifically, neither Koether nor Andruzzi, considered alone or in combination, describe nor suggest a method including connecting a diagnostic interface to a local area appliance network interconnecting a plurality of appliances. Rather, in contrast to the recitations of Claim 1, Koether describes a system wherein each individual appliance is connected only to its corresponding controller. Applicants submit that merely describing a network including appliances that are each connected to a controller does not describe or suggest a local area network *interconnecting a plurality of appliances*. Further, Andruzzi merely describes implementing, by a modem, an amplitude-shift keying/frequency-shift keying (ASK/FSK) data encoding and transmission scheme. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 is patentable over Koether in view of Andruzzi.

Claims 2-5, 7-11, and 30-31 depend from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 2-5, 7-11, and 30-31 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 2-5, 7-11, and 30-31 likewise are patentable over Koether in view of Andruzzi.

Claim 12 recites a diagnostic interface for performing service diagnostics on appliances, the diagnostic interface comprising “a display for viewing diagnostic and service information . . . processing circuitry for generating service commands for an appliance . . . a power line carrier communication interface configured to be connected to a local area appliance network interconnecting a plurality of appliances, wherein said power line carrier communication interface facilitates transmitting the service commands to the plurality of appliances and receiving appliance diagnostic results on a power line carrier communication system, and said diagnostic interface implemented within a single device including said

display, said processing circuitry generating the service commands to service the at least one appliance, and said power line communication interface configured to modulate data to communicate the data over an alternating current (AC) power line, wherein said diagnostic interface configured to service the at least one appliance via said power line carrier communication interface by at least one of adjusting a characteristic of at least one appliance and displaying to a technician the appliance diagnostic results.”

Neither Koether nor Andruzzi, considered alone or in combination, describe nor suggest a diagnostic interface for performing service diagnostics on appliances, as is recited in Claim 12. Specifically, neither Koether nor Andruzzi, considered alone or in combination, describe nor suggest a diagnostic interface including a local area appliance network interconnecting a plurality of appliances. Rather, in contrast to the recitations of Claim 12, Koether describes a system wherein each individual appliance is connected only to its corresponding controller. Applicants submit that merely describing a network including appliances that are each connected to a controller does not describe or suggest a local area network *interconnecting a plurality of appliances*. Further, Andruzzi merely describes implementing, by a modem, an amplitude-shift keying/frequency-shift keying (ASK/FSK) data encoding and transmission scheme. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 12 is patentable over Koether in view of Andruzzi.

Claims 13-21 depend from independent Claim 12. When the recitations of Claims 13-21 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 12, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 13-21 likewise are patentable over Koether in view of Andruzzi.

Claim 22 recites a diagnostic system for providing access to service diagnostics on an appliance, the system comprising “a local area appliance network configured to interconnect a plurality of appliances . . . a diagnostic interface configured to be connected to said local area appliance network, said diagnostic interface comprising a display, wherein said diagnostic interface facilitates accepting service diagnostics commands destined for at least one appliance, said diagnostic interface implemented within a single device including a display device, a microprocessor configured to generate the diagnostics commands, and a

power line carrier modem configured to modulate data to communicate the data over an alternating current (AC) power line, wherein said diagnostic interface configured to service the plurality of appliances via said power line carrier modem by at least one of adjusting a characteristic of at least one appliance and displaying to a technician the diagnostics commands . . . a dedicated appliance controller for receiving and executing the diagnostics commands.”

Neither Koether nor Andruzzi, considered alone or in combination, describe nor suggest a diagnostic system for providing access to service diagnostics on an appliance, as is recited in Claim 22. Specifically, neither Koether nor Andruzzi, considered alone or in combination, describe nor suggest a diagnostic system including a local area appliance network configured to interconnect a plurality of appliances. Rather, in contrast to the recitations of Claim 22, Koether describes a system wherein each individual appliance is connected only to its corresponding controller. Applicants submit that merely describing a network including appliances that are each connected to a controller does not describe or suggest a local area network *configured to interconnect a plurality of appliances*. Further, Andruzzi merely describes implementing, by a modem, an amplitude-shift keying/frequency-shift keying (ASK/FSK) data encoding and transmission scheme. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 22 is patentable over Koether in view of Andruzzi.

Claims 23-29 depend from independent Claim 22. When the recitations of Claims 23-29 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 22, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 23-29 likewise are patentable over Koether in view of Andruzzi.

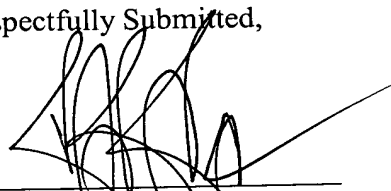
Accordingly, for at least the reasons given above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 103 rejection of Claims 1-5 and 7-31 be withdrawn.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. B. Reeser, III', written over a horizontal line.

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